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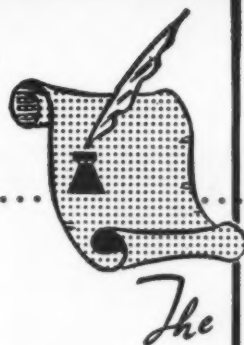
December 23, 1957

Church of God  
**Evangel**





God's



## Unspeakable Gift

## The Editor's Message

2 Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

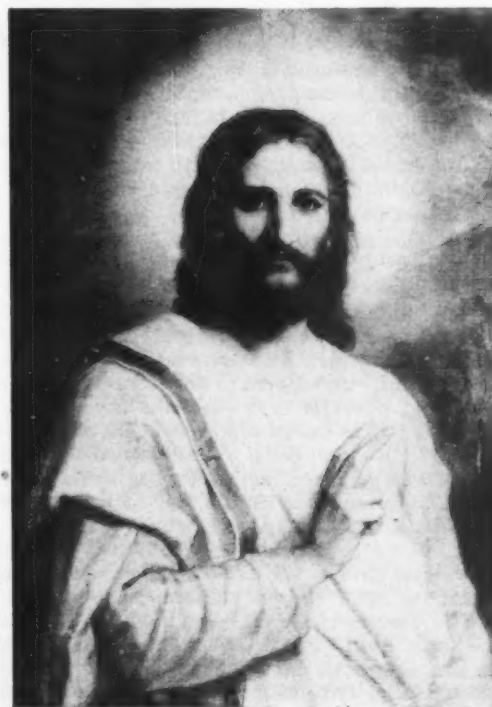
**F**OR CENTURIES MEN have failed in their attempts to describe the wonderful gift of God. That gift was, of course, His Son. John 3:16, "... He gave his only begotten Son. ..." Isaiah 9:6, "... Unto us a son is given. ..." Our text does not mean that Christ is not to be mentioned—not to be spoken of. It rather means that it is beyond the human vocabulary to present Christ as He really is. It is impossible to tell of all His glory and wonderfulness. "Thank God for his indescribable gift" (Smith-Goodspeed). Poets have tried to tell of Him in their poetry; He has made that poetry sublime, but it has failed to tell of His glorious fullness. Artists have tried to paint Him in all His glory; that has made their paintings radiant, but they have failed to capture His complete beauty in their oils. Preachers have attempted to tell of His majesty; as a result their sermons have been exalted and anointed, but they have failed to tell the world all the wonderful things about Him. That would be impossible. John concluded his inspired effort to tell of Him with this admission: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen" (John 21:25).

It is impossible to describe the gift of God, true, but it is not impossible to accept that gift. Words cannot tell of His greatness and love, but the heart and soul can feel His tender salvation. Paints cannot show His beauty and grandeur, but the Spirit can breathe that beauty into our lives, and His grace can rapture us into the breath-stealing, awesome presence of His glory. This Man, this Redeemer, this Saviour, this King, this Son of God is the gift of God to the world today. Wonderful, redeeming, unspeakable gift of God! Have you fully accepted that gift?

When the believer accepts Christ into his heart, there comes a joy that is equally impossible to define. 1 Peter 1:8, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now we see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." Those who have not accepted this gift from God cannot

understand the joyful ecstasy that we believers have in our souls. Oh, the joy of knowing that He is yours, the joy of knowing that your sins are forgiven, the joy of knowing that someday you will see Him—that type of joy cannot be known to the unbelieving hearer. And, what is more, we that have the joy are unable to tell how wonderful it is. Just as one standing on the seashore does not *really* see the ocean, but only the meagerest fringe of it, so cannot the onlooker realize the supreme thrill that sweetens our souls in the knowledge that we are His—and that He is ours.

During this Christmas season, amid the giving and receiving of gifts—accept the unspeakable gift of God with a whole heart. Don't theorize about Him—believe in Him. Even if we can't explain Him, we *can* have Him





# PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

By J. E. DeVore

Pastor, Minot, North Dakota

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11.*

THE REAL MEANING of Christmas is that God gave His Son as a Saviour. "... And thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins." The angel said, "... Unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." He is a Saviour for all people." He came to save Jews, gentiles, bondsmen, free men, all men, all people, all races. Wherever we find even a horde of wandering savages we have a great responsibility toward them, for Christ was born for their salvation. He was born to save little boys and girls. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not."

We need an evangelist that will surge through the Sunday School, through the teacher, and through the teaching of the Sunday School Teachers, preachers, parents, and all who have any part in the nurture of boys and girls. We need a fervent hope that Jesus came to save "whoever will." Christ was born to save young people. He loved the rich young ruler, and He loves young people today. He challenged that young man to pay the price and follow Him. He is still challenging young people to follow Him today. We must lead our young people to face the fact that they need the Saviour. We must challenge them to stand firm in this sin-blighted world with clean, courageous, upright, decent, and holy living and to win other young people to the Lord.

Jesus came to save lost men and women. Our commission is to invite men and women to receive Christ. In so many words a sinner told me recently, "You are the only one who seems concerned about my soul." "My folks are not concerned about me" was the implication of this person's statement. "My folks are not concerned and the church is not concerned." I said, "My friend, Jesus is concerned about your soul. He came into the world to save men from sin. Let Him save you." This man came to the altar and was gloriously saved and sanctified. He is now facing the most wonderful Christmas of his life, and he now knows the real meaning of Christmas. I believe more men and women, young people, and boys and girls would surrender their lives to the Lord if we showed a greater concern for their spiritual welfare. Some persons will come to church at Christmas time and will not be back again until Easter. The Lord may come before they come back to church again. Let us try to win them to Christ while we have the opportunity. Lost in sin and chaos, men and women need Christ desperate-

ly. They may never find Him apart from us. If we are unconcerned, many of these precious souls will never find the Saviour. Christ's errand, work, and object was to save, to redeem men, to transform lives, to be a Saviour of souls from eternal death to eternal life and glory. The tidings of Christ are the tidings of divine grace and salvation. His tidings are glad tidings indeed!

He came as a divine Physician for the sick, the suffering, and the sinful. He is the only Physician who can open blinded eyes, loosen dumb tongues, reconstruct the drum of a deaf ear, straighten crooked limbs, empower the invalid to shoulder his mattress, staunch a hemorrhage of twelve years' duration, and deliver the palsied without pain or price, without anesthetics or surgery. The wonderful Physician who healed the sick of all manner of diseases and sicknesses is the same now as He was then. What He did for the people during His earthly ministry He will do for us here and now. He is worthy of the love, confidence, praise, thanksgiving, worship, and adoration of all men and the hallelujahs of the angels in glory. Jesus came to save and heal. How high are His fees? "Without money and without price" is His invitation to one and all. "Without money and without price" you may have all your sicknesses healed and your eternal soul saved.

IN THIS DESPERATE, dismaying, discouraging, earth-shaking day in which so many are under the curse of sin and sickness, let us determine to lift up the Saviour as never before. Let us tell men of that blessed event which occurred only once in history, and let us tell them the purpose, the meaning, the reason for that glorious, unprecedented event. It had been four hundred years—long years—dark years—lonely years since the voice of a prophet had been heard in Israel and the throbbing heartbeat of a lost world cried for deliverance from the yoke of bondage. Men were agonizing in the death throes of despair. But "in the fullness of time" the angelic host appeared to a group of humble shepherds and joyfully announced, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." God poured contempt on worldly glory and distinctions as He instructed those angels to bypass the high and mighty in the delivery of their "good tidings of great joy." He sent them to the humble and lowly. Those Jewish shepherds heard for the very first time the most wonderful announcement that has ever been made, and they believed it. "And it came to pass, as the an-

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# HOME

By J. D. Free

Pastor, Largo, Florida

Text: Titus 2:5

**T**HE EUPHONY OF SOME WORDS lie in their pleasant sound, but the beauty of the word *home* is in the depth of its meaning. The poet expressed the feelings of nearly everyone when he said, "Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home."

Henry Grady, the great statesman, after being elected to represent his state in Congress, stood and gazed for the first time upon the magnificent Capitol building in Washington; as he thought of the power wielded over the world by the government housed there, he exclaimed, "This is America." Then as he thought more carefully upon what he had said, his mind traveled back to his boyhood home, a log cabin in the pine hills of Kentucky, and to millions of other such homes scattered over the country and he said, "That is America." The strength and greatness of America is in its homes.

It is terrifying to think what the world would be like without the influence and guidance of the church, but if it were not for good Christian homes there would be no church. Good homes make good churches. There is nothing more beautiful than a Christian home where the parents and all the children serve God and are on the road to heaven. On the other hand, there is no sadder picture than to see a family serving the devil and on the road to hell; unfortunately, there are many such families. Thank God, there are still some Christian homes that serve as a bulwark of strength for our deteriorating society. May God give us more such homes.

The devil knows what a great asset the Christian home is to the kingdom of God and he does not fail to use every means possible to wreck every home he can by breaking the bonds of marriage which tie the family together. One divorce to every three marriages is an appalling record for this country that is known as a Christian nation.

There was a time when the home could be depended on to hold up the standard of moral decency, integrity and sobriety, but in recent years many homes in America have become little more than just a place to sleep or eat. Many children are left to shift for themselves while their parents spend their time away from home working by day and taking in all the places of entertainment their time will allow at night. The final result is that the children fail to get proper care and training and fill the penal institutions. We call it juvenile delinquency, but it is really parental delinquency. The institution of marriage is of divine



origin and home can be successful only when it is so regarded.

Providence seems to have decreed that women should have the greater responsibility of the home and children. This privilege has been sacrificed on the altar of occupational equality, leaving the children to the care of hands that have little interest in them except as they are related to the salary received for their care. Consequently, the mother who was destined to rule as queen on the throne of her home, has abdicated her sacred position for the inferior status of a secular career which takes her away from her children and leaves them without the love and training of a Christian mother. Nothing can halt the crime wave in our country so effectively as can the women of America, by filling their proper place in the home and giving their children the training and spiritual guidance which they need to become good citizens and establish Christian homes.

There are few sights more wonderful than a lovely home. The architectural beauty of homes today is more striking and colorful than ever before, but the physical house alone does not constitute a home. A real home is composed of families that love one another, where the joys and sorrows of life are shared and where God is honored and Christ given His rightful place around the hearth. Modern inventions have added much comfort and usefulness to present-day housing, but only the Holy Ghost can add the spiritual life that makes a real home. The family altar is an essential part of every family circle. Someone very

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# Bread for All Men

By Mrs. F. W. Goff

Mt. Vernon, Illinois

*"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," Micah 5:2.*

SITUATED ON THE BROW of a high hill, overlooking the surrounding mountainous country, hillsides rich with vineyards, almond groves and fig plantations was the little village of Bethlehem, rightly interpreted, the House of Bread. How fitting it was that He, who was to be the Bread of Life for all men, was born here.

Israel down through the centuries had felt the lash and yoke of many conquerors—Assyrian, Egyptian, Macedonian, Persian, Babylonian and now Roman. Yet out of one of her smallest hamlets, so small as not to be numbered among the possessions of Judah in Joshua, was destined to come one that was to be Ruler in Israel.

Isaiah several hundred years before foresaw a living, real Deliverer: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Thanks be unto God, Isaiah saw not only a mortal ruler. This coming One would also reinforce the soul: ". . . He shall be as an hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest . . . and a highway shall be there and a way . . . the redeemed shall walk there . . . the ransomed of the Lord . . . with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation."

Israel had been torn asunder. To many, the words were as idle tales. With Herod on the throne, the old prophecies of a Redeemer had grown dim. But to the true Israelites the words had remained, flowing down from father to son, through all the generations, like unquenchable flames.

At long last the time had come: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons," Galatians 4:4, 5.

Looking back into the shadows of time we stand in awe at the simplicity of his birth. He that is our King was born in a lowly stable. Into the household of Joseph and Mary, unassuming country folk, came this Christ Child. The marvel of that hour remains and with the angels we sing aloud, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

He came to all men, everywhere; none are excluded. Matthew records the visit of the Wise Men bringing their gifts from afar. Luke tells us of the lowly shepherds and of the saints in the Temple. It is significant that all these recognized and welcomed the Christ Child when He came. In the mind of God,

all men of all nations, every class, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, the heathen or the mystic could find in this Babe, bread for the inner man, satisfaction for the longing that is inherent in the innermost being. It was this Babe that disclosed what God is like. He was God, become man, so men could know God better.

This is the essence of those "tidings of great joy to all people" that the humble shepherds heard that midnight hour as they kept watch over their flock. These were the common folk, the plain, unlettered shepherds. Mark in his gospel tells us, "And the common people heard him gladly." It has ever been so. They know only the common needs, yet responding to their natural instincts, in search for understanding they find in Christ the real meaning and value of life.

The Wise Men, thinkers, scholars, philosophers are searchers for the truth. They want to know and understand. They respond to reason. The Wise Men from the East, typical of their class, found the answer to their problem and the end of their search in the Babe in the manger. From that day onward great scholars, profound thinkers, conscientious students have been among the most devoted followers of Jesus. They have found in Him the great teacher, the master mind. They, as gladly as the common folk, acknowledge Him as Lord and Saviour.

Simeon and Anna, saints serving in the Temple, sensitively responsive to spiritual influence, looked upon the Christ Child and they, possibly better than any, understood His spiritual worth. They hungered and were satisfied.

Men may differ in class, in creed, in color, but in Christ they find a common meeting ground. He appeals to and satisfies all classes and meets the needs of all. His message was that *all* men are acceptable through and by Him.

As one writer so ably wrote, "The kernel of all He did and said was love; 'Love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbor as thyself . . . as I have loved you.'" That, men hold, was what God was like during his visit to earth. He came here out of love, to help men find their way, and that is what He was while here—the embodiment of love. He bridged a gap of loneliness separating men from their God. He marked the hidden trail by which lost sheep could find the fold.

It was that birth in Bethlehem—of One wholly God and wholly man—that brought deliverance, light and bread to mankind, that once again we may be brethren in Him.

Let us beware always of forbidding Him to any class or claiming Him for any group. For is it not written, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"?

# The Costliest Free Gift Ever Given

"Jesus answered and said unto her, *If thou knewest the gift of God . . .*" (John 4:10). "*. . . but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 6:23).

**A**T CHRISTMAS TIME many gifts are given, some of gold and silver, some set with rubies, pearls, diamonds or other precious gems; some very rare and so costly that it almost takes one's breath away to express the greatness. All of this is good when people can easily afford such, and when they are expressing their esteem or affection to one another. There is, however, no gift so rare and costly as the one God gave to the children of men; yet, so many ignore it, so many do not wholly appreciate it, especially in the days in which we are now living.

How often many quote easily John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish; but have everlasting life"—yet still fail to catch the astounding truth in that Scripture which reminds us all that "God so loved the world (mankind) that He gave," yes, gave the best He had to redeem us from sin and destruction, that we might have eternal, everlasting life.

Christmas should mean more to us than merely giving or exchanging gifts. It should mean always God gave His only begotten Son, and because of that, if we will but believe in Him, accept Him, live for Him, and let Him live in us, we will have everlasting life." When looking over the gifts we receive, we should first take special note of the costliest gift given to mankind, eternal life, wrapped and tied with the red ribbon of the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." This gift is not only everlasting, but also indestructible, and brings exceeding joy to its possessors. God gave the gift of His Son freely; all that is required of us is but to claim Him, and give Him our hearts.

Let us sum up as nearly as possible the cost of this costliest free gift ever given:



By Ralph E. Northrup

Pastor, Evangelist, La Junta, Colorado

1. It cost God His only begotten Son (John 3:16).
2. It cost God's Son His life (Galatians 2:20; John 19:30, 34).
3. Mary and Joseph had to bear the reproach of man in their day (Note Luke 1:26-38).
4. Mary and Joseph had to leave the security of their home, and country and flee for the sake of the child Jesus. Matthew 2:13-15.

Yet they, each one, gave freely, not counting the cost, to bring salvation (deliverance) to us. How we should appreciate this wonderful, wonderful gift.

**A YOUNG BOY**, nine years old, hurried through the pushing, jostling crowd of Christmas shoppers toward a store he had in mind. He was soon standing at a gaily decorated plate glass window where a dazzling array of beautiful gifts were displayed, resplendent in their cellophane wrappings and red satin bows. There were expensive and beautiful toys displayed, but the boy, whose name was Jerry Thomas, hardly gave them a glance.

Something far more important occupied his thoughts, and he carefully searched the large window for the scarce article for which he was looking, since this was during the time of World War II, when metal appliances were scarce. His search was soon rewarded; high up among the electric grills, toasters, and irons, tied with a large red satin ribbon, was a



large electric mixer. This was the very thing he had overheard his mother say she surely would like to have, if she could ever afford one. Jerry was now thrilled to see there was one available, for he had searched many stores before coming to this one. Out of his income from his paper route, Jerry had saved up money for this very thing. He said to himself, "I had better go in and make a deposit on it before someone else buys it; then I'll ride back home and get the rest of the money from my savings in the hiding place in my room."

Jerry rushed in and after a talk with the salesman who came forward to wait on him, he arranged to deposit two dollars, all he had with him. He watched the salesman mark the mixer SOLD, tucked the receipt for the deposit in his coat pocket, hurried out, mounted his bicycle and pedaled swiftly the great distance he had to go to get home.

He had meant to keep it secret from his mother, but that turned out to be impossible, for his mother was tidying up his room when he went back to get the bank. She asked him what he was going to do with all that money, so he finally blurted out, "This is—well, it's for you, Mom! But it is a surprise; I can't tell you what it is now." His mother said, "Now, Jerry, a nice hanky will suit me fine, don't go and spend a lot of money." Jerry kissed her, then swiftly made his way back downtown to the store to pay for the electric mixer.

A half hour later, as Jerry's mother was hastening downtown to do some last-minute shopping, she was held up by a large crowd gathered on the sidewalk watching something; she wondered what the disturbance was, and asked a person standing close to her.

"Some youngster was knocked off his bike," was the reply. "Those boys never do look where they're going."

Mrs. Thomas pushed her way in closer to get a glimpse of the unfortunate boy. To her surprise she saw her husband in the crowd, and made her way to his side. It was a surprise to see her husband in town so early as he commuted to another town where his office was, and she exclaimed, "I had no idea it was time for your train." He replied, "I caught an earlier train; let us try and get over and see the poor little tyke, Ellen. I guess he won't have much of a Christmas if he's hurt as badly as they say."

They pushed and jostled ahead until they were within a few feet of where the boy lay, white and inert, his head crudely pillowed on a folded coat, awaiting the ambulance. Then Mrs. Thomas suddenly screamed, for the poor boy was indeed their precious Jerry! She took his head in her lap and within a few minutes he breathed his last. It was such a tragedy, and it was long after the funeral, before Jerry's parents could bring themselves to open the gaily wrapped package which had been in the basket of Jerry's bicycle when the accident occurred, and by some miracle had escaped damage.

They wept inconsolably as they saw the expensive appliance and realized their son had paid every cent he had for it, and also that he had lost his life

while bringing it home. The gift that had been procured at such a tremendous cost seemed too sacred to touch; it became to Jerry's mother the most precious thing in her possession. Love for his mother caused Jerry to sacrifice every penny he had to bring her a wonderful gift; and he died in the act of procuring it for her.

It was love "for God so loved" for our poor, lost souls which caused the Lord Jesus Christ to give up everything. It cost Jesus His life to bring us the gift of God, salvation (deliverance), so we should count it the most precious thing we possess. Only Christ, the Christ of Christmas, can really give you a really happy and merry Christmas. Today so much is taken out of Christmas; some even write it Xmas. When you take the Christ out of Christmas there is nothing left. Make room in the inn of your heart and life for Christ.

Remember, this is not your birthday you are celebrating, but His birthday. While you are making out your list for Christmas gifts, why not put His name at the top of the list before you go shopping? You'll have the happiest and merriest Christmas you ever experienced.

First, give Him your heart; be converted, become a Christian (a Christ-one); this is the most acceptable gift, the one He will most appreciate from you. Then pay Him your tithes and give a love offering through your church and pastor.

You cannot buy this Gift of God; it is already paid for, purchased by Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, and is a *free gift* to all who will claim it. This is the most precious gift, yes, *the costliest gift ever given.*





# JOY

By H. A. Norman  
Pastor, Troy, Ohio

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," Luke 2:10.*

EVERYBODY WANTS JOY. However, joy does not mean the same thing to every person; consequently, a million people in a hundred countries seek a million joys in a million different ways. This Christmas finds one of the old theories for happiness and joy—"eat, drink, and be merry"—still very popular and much practiced. Another common producer of joy is a sense of physical fitness, financial security, and general well-being. Some enjoy this; others long for it, but even the joy of those who are best fixed in the wealth of this world is clouded by the insatiable reach of man into powers which seem unlimited and unguided by the Spirit of God. Perhaps man is bent on retaliation for his defeat at Babel and now expects to shoot his way by science into heaven. There must have been similar need for peace and joy in the hearts of men nearly two thousand years ago.

# TO THE WORLD

It was during this time, after almost four hundred years of silence on earth about the work of God, that saddened and suppressed people living under domination of foreign governments hoped for a coming Messiah who would bring deliverance and joy. *Peloubet's Bible Dictionary* states that there was a general expectation, among the heathen as well as the Jews, of a great King, and that this eager expectation would have led to a welcoming of the Christ if He had come in accordance with their expectations. Virgil, who lived a little before this time, indicates that they looked for a child from heaven who would restore the golden age and take away sin. Along with this hope was the great promise of a divine Redeemer. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace," Isaiah 9:6. Among all those who were not concerned with the promise of a Redeemer, there evidently were some still watching, waiting, looking for, and believing in His appearance. There was for those whose faith was steadfast a coming joy.

It was tax-paying time in the Roman world according to the decree of Caesar Augustus, and Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be taxed. Adam Clarke suggests that there was no real necessity according to custom for Mary to go to Bethlehem with her husband to be taxed, except for one thing which was not at all connected with taxation. God had said through one of the prophets, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel . . .," Micah 5:2. So Mary went to Bethlehem with her husband, Joseph.

Business was booming in Bethlehem. Somehow, Joseph had no advance reservation, and his arrival must have been somewhat delayed, for when he and his wife finally reached town, they found no vacancy at the inn. When man's convenience was provided for, no room was left for a Saviour. There is no evidence that the innkeeper had any ill will toward Joseph and Mary. There was just not room for addi-

tional guests. Could he have known the opportunity that was in his hand to provide a birthplace for the Christ, he, no doubt, would have made arrangements even if he had had to evict others. Human circumstances, however, ruled out the Christ. How often do human circumstances make no provision for Christ in the world or in our hearts. He who is always a victim of circumstances cannot know the joy of Christ; but as Christ lives in us, circumstances can be changed.

God remembered those who waited and watched, humbly, for the promised Messiah. Living in a world without a Christ was cause enough for despair. David's words, ". . . Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5), must have cheered the hearts of lonely shepherds who watched their flock by night on the Judean hills. The exact time of the year when this occurred is not known, but while these shepherds were in the field with their flock, they were selected, evidently by God, to receive the world-shaking message. "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," Luke 2:9, 10. This, indeed, was a far-reaching message. They were told of the Child born in the city of David and how they would find Him. Immediately following the completion of the message, a multitude of the heavenly host joined the angel of the Lord in a praise service saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," Luke 2:14.

It had been a Christless world, but with a promise and a hope. A man and his wife were faithful to their country and to their God. As unsung heroes watched their sheep in the hills, the angel of the Lord and the heavenly host appeared with a proclamation. Fear subsided. A serene calm prevailed. Joy was proclaimed. The sound waves of that message still vibrate through the air in our world today so far separated from the shepherd world of that night. God grant that every ear ready to receive the joyful sound of salvation will hear and understand more clearly the angelic message on this momentous occasion. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come."



## PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 4)

*gels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass . . . And when they had seen it, they made known abroad THE SAYING which was told them concerning this child." Beloved, let us make "known abroad the saying" "unto you is born . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

The purpose of that first Christmas was the salvation of human beings, body, soul, and spirit. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Has the purpose of His coming been fulfilled in your life? Have you received "life abundantly" in Christ? If so, then rejoice with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" and tell others about the purpose of His coming. That Little One on His bed of straw was mightier than King Herod on his throne. John said, "He that cometh after me is mightier than I . . . he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Let us make this Christmas Pentecostal as well as evangelistic. Let us tell one and all that Jesus also came into the world to baptize people in the Holy Ghost.

We must not forget to tell them that Jesus came to build His Church. Yes, Christ came and gave Himself for the Church. Beloved, He will have a church that will believe and will preach a blood-bought salvation that saves from sin. He will have a church that will believe and will preach that His virgin birth is one of the sweetest facts in the full gospel message. He will have a church that is "sanctified with the washing of water by the Word." He will have a church that will not only believe but will know by experience that the baptism with the Holy Ghost is the heritage of His Church, from the time Pentecost blazed in glory over the upper room in Jerusalem nearly two thousand years ago right on down to this very hour and this very moment. For all the above reasons, for a glorious salvation purpose, the Saviour was born in Bethlehem of Judea. Let us give praise, honor, and glory unto Him this Christmas time.



## HOME

(Continued from page 5)

aptly said, "The family that prays together stays together."

The influence of a Christian home lives long after its occupants have gone. One cannot visit Mt. Vernon, the home of the father of our nation, without feeling something of the power of the man who was once master there. As one views Monticello atop a mountain near Charlottesville, Virginia, and witnesses the artistic design that characterizes this magnificent building from its impressive dome to the most minute details of its interior, one cannot keep from realizing that a great artist and statesman once resided there. The influence of Jefferson still lives. Likewise, the influ-

ence of Christian homes has been felt in the atheistic classroom, on the battlefield, or in the Bowery, and has given inspiration and hope to many unfortunate victims when circumstances were overwhelmingly conducive to a course of destruction.

We all want good churches, a good country to live in, and good government. As a prerequisite to these things, we must have the influence of Christian homes. Since the home is of such great importance to national and individual happiness and well-being, we should do everything in our power to build more good homes.

The church and the home are interlocking in their responsibilities and activities. The home cannot get along without the help of the church; neither can the church prosper without the home. This brings us to the conclusion that they must work together. Every individual of every home should be saved for the church. Needless to say, this is not always the case. We have lost too many of our own church families. What can be done? The answer is not simple, but perhaps if we add to our curriculum of church activities some social activities in the home and elsewhere, we would meet a great need of our people and be able to hold more of them for the church.

God is interested in our home life. He gave man his first home. This home was lovely, and was designed to meet the needs not only of the first couple but of all posterity. By the foul play of the devil this perfect home was made imperfect, and man lost his first estate. Christ became interested in rebuilding for man another home; after bringing this glorious announcement to the world and making provisions for man to inherit this new home, He went back to the Father to "prepare a place for you." Even if we are not privileged to own a home here, if we meet the simple stipulations of our Master, who is the architect of our eternal home, we may become the happy recipients of one of those mansions which He said He would prepare for those who love Him.

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Honor is not a matter of any man's calling merely, but rather of his own actions in it.—Dwight.

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Ministers who plan to attend the World Conference of Pentecostal Churches on September 14-21, 1958, in Toronto, Canada, may write Rev. J. Montgomery, local Conference Secretary, 50 Euston Avenue, Toronto 6, Canada, for reservations. The headquarters hotel is Windsor Arms Hotel.

H. D. Williams  
General Secretary-Treasurer

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To the pastor or laymen of the Church of God near the Eglin Air Force Base, please contact A 1/c Ottis Burke, 3201 St. Inst. G. P., Phone 3177, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

—Luther M. Anderson, pastor

# Unto You Is Born a Saviour

By Alexander W. Delk, Professor of Biblical Theology, Lee College

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins," Matthew 1:21.*

**F**OR LONG CENTURIES Israelite prophets had foretold the coming of a glad day when God would send His people a Messiah. Many prophets of old had envisioned the time when the great One would come to Israel. Even angelic proclamations heralded His coming.

Now, to Joseph an angel appeared. The angel gave to him the same wonderful message that had so recently been given to Mary, the mother of Jesus. To Joseph the angel announced the coming of the Son of God and told him that the Babe should be named Jesus, for He would be a Saviour for His people. Embodied in the name itself is the meaning, for as the angel said, "He shall save his people from their sins."

## I. The Messiah of Israel

As far back as Genesis 3:15 we find traces of Israelite Messianic prophecies. Almost every book of the Old Testament contains prophecies of this One to come. To ignore the Messianic element of the Old Testament is to miss its deepest meaning.

Every Jew was familiar with these prophecies. In the heart of many burned a hope and longing for the Saviour to come. Many Jewish mothers must have yearned for their son to be the long-awaited One. Many, however, must have given up hope. The years and even the centuries came and went and no Messiah appeared. But man cannot discern the "time of God" and in the "fullness of that time" the great event happened.

To a young virgin, Mary, an angel appeared and announced that she was to be honored of God as the mother of the Messiah of Israel. To Joseph, her husband, came the reassuring words of the angel that this Child was of the Holy Ghost and that He would be the long-awaited Saviour of the world.

The shepherds in the fields on that memorable night beheld the angelic presence and heard the glad tidings, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The Wise Men beheld Bethlehem's star and followed it to the stable wherein lay this wonderful Babe. The event—the focal point of all history—had taken place. God had sent His only begotten Son to redeem fallen man.

## II. The Saviour of the World

"Never man spake like this man." Never had the world known such a One as this Jesus Christ. The Son of God incarnate—the Saviour of the world was He. But, sadly, soon it could be said that "he came unto his own and his own received him not."

Rejected by the Jews, He went to a cross. His death there was no accident, but rather the foreseen plan of God whereby mankind would be saved. The precious blood of Christ was there shed that sinful man might be saved and set free from the bondage of Satan. The atoning death of Christ made possible our salvation. Truly He had fulfilled the prophecy that "he shall save his people from their sins."

In His own day hundreds met the Master and heard the blessed words, "Thy sins be forgiven thee. Go and sin no more." Truly He was the blessed Saviour of the world.

## III. Our Christ

For nearly two thousand years people have found in Him an all-sufficient Christ. He is more today than the Jesus of history—He is the Christ of experience.

Today, we as the redeemed host cry out our praise to Him as our "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." We have found Him to be more than a historical figure. We have found Him to be more than just a good man. We have found Him to be more than a Buddha or a Mohammed. We have found Him to be truly the Son of God—the eternal Saviour of the world and the blessed Saviour of our own souls. He is our Christ of experience and we gladly dedicate our all to Him.

Is He your Christ? Or, to you is He merely a figure of history? Is He only One to trouble your conscience and One whose call you have persistently rejected?

The Christ of Bethlehem is calling to you today to accept Him and to allow Him to save you from your sins. He has given His very life on a cross for you. Truly He is the Saviour of the world. Will you allow Him to be your Saviour, too?



# Spreading the Flame

## HIS PLACE

Although the evangelists are of great importance as I have written previously, yet they should know their place and stay therein by all means.

1. They are to be burdened for the lost and concerned about the spiritual welfare of all the members of the church.

2. They should give themselves to much prayer and fasting, and to the study of God's Word to secure a message to reach the lost, and to revive the members.

## NOT TO

3. They are not to try to attend to the duties of the pastor, such as entering into the church controversies or disputes (which should not be but do exist), and giving advice without being asked by the pastor to assist him.

4. If some disgruntled members want to know if the evangelist is available for pastor, he should not tell them if they can get the people to vote for him he will be available for consideration. This is out of order for the evangelist, and creates a disturbance.

5. The evangelist should never take sides with members talking about their pastor (this also should not be, but does exist), for the evangelist will only get the members' side of the matter which is not fair to the pastor. This also is out of the evangelist's place.

6. If staying in the home of the pastor, he and his wife should help with the chores such as dish-washing, bed-making, sweeping the house, helping prepare the meals, etc. In other words, it should be as a team, cooperating, working together for the good of each other and for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

—Earl P. Paulk

Assistant General Overseer



Des Moines, Iowa

The new-field evangelistic effort at 1712 Sixth Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, is crystallizing into tangible and lasting results. On June 9 the Church of God in Des Moines was organized by Brother Donald B. Gibson with six members. We expect others to join our ranks in the near future. The number of charter members we cherish dearly, but it in nowise reflects our true strength here. There are others who faithfully support the church with their regular attendance and liberal offerings. Brother Gibson's labor in this God-given field will not be forgotten.



Burnside, Illinois

Brother J. D. Golden organized the church here March 3, 1957, with fourteen members. The Lord has blessed with an increase of ten since that time. The Sunday School attendance averages in the fifties, and the tithes have averaged almost \$275 per month.

Evergreen, Alabama

This work was organized September 28, 1957, with twelve members. Sisters Lillie Mae Allen and Edna Davis really pioneered the work by going into Evergreen with a tent. After several weeks of revival effort and the organization of a Sunday School, Brother A. W. Mills was given oversight of the work, and in a very few weeks the church was organized.



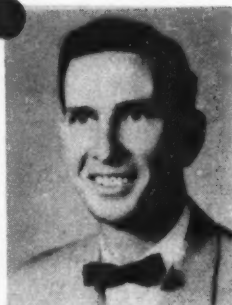
Chatom, Alabama

While pastoring at Millry, Brother S. M. Hacker and family began a branch Sunday School in the afternoon in different homes in Chatom. After camp meeting a state tent was erected and several weeks of revival were conducted by the pastors on the Choctaw district. On October 4, 1957, a church was organized with eleven members. The church is progressing in every department.





*Greensboro, N. C.*



Really, it was no trouble at all for the State Street Church of God to organize a new church in the south side of the city of Greensboro. All we did was transfer sixteen of our own members who lived in that neighborhood, and they became the charter members of the Glenwood Church of God. Almost any church of comparable size, having the same or similar circumstances, can do the same thing.

We have purchased about an acre of ground, with a house on it, for the sum of six thousand dollars. The house will, at the present time, be used as a place of worship, with the thought in mind that it will later be used as a parsonage until a new one can be bought or built. There is enough ground on which to construct a church auditorium and provide for off-street parking facilities. Brother Carlyle Avery has assisted in the purchasing of the property and is temporarily in charge of the work.

The fine members of the State Street Church of God are to be given credit for this new church. Some of them were willing to pioneer the work, and the church was willing to sacrifice a group of its members to establish the new work. This is the third church to be started or mothered by the State Street Church in the city of Greensboro.

—J. David Pitts, former pastor

*Ft. Pierce, Florida*



Brother Boe Peebles organized the Oleander Avenue Church of God August 25, 1957, with seventeen members after and as a result of a three-week revival and tent meeting. The L.W.W.B. has already been organized and the ladies are hard at work; they have already cleared over \$140 on two suppers. They plan to start building in October.

*Hughes, Arkansas*

Joe Brazeal organized a church here March 5, 1957, with ten members.

*Kannapolis, N. C.*

The joy of pioneering a new church usually compensates for the problems a minister confronts. On April 7, 1957, a new church was organized in Kannapolis, North Carolina.

We have purchased an attractive parsonage, furniture, church building and two extra lots at the reasonable cost of \$17,000. Our property is located in a most desirable section of Kannapolis. The present membership is seventeen, with attendance as high as one hundred in regular services.

Our sincere thanks to Brother J. Frank Spivey, district pastor, and the state office for assistance given us in the development of this new project.

—Manuel F. Campbell, pastor



*Lake Orion, Michigan*

On April 14, 1957, a new church was organized at Lake Orion, with nine members. Brother Herman Smith is the pastor of this new church and is responsible for pioneering this work.



*Pink Hill, N. C.*

The Lord has worked in a wonderful way for the church in Pink Hill. On March 12, 1957, they organized with twelve members. Trees and nails were donated by the farmers and businessmen to build a church. They got their tractors and saws together, cut the timber and carried it to the mill. The lumber was enough for the framework. The sisters and friends of the church sold barbecue suppers and raised enough money for the blocks. They now have a nice church 37 by 70 feet, with five Sunday School rooms. Twice the Sunday School record has been broken, once with 122 and again with 126. It is the only holiness church in Pink Hill. Brother R. M. Pope is the pastor of this work.





# healing

## Praises God for Healing

OVETT, Miss.—I promised the Lord if He would heal me of gall bladder trouble I would send in my testimony of healing. I praise and thank God that He has healed me of this and many other things for which I praise Him.

—Mrs. L. E. Walters

## Healed of Skin Cancer

LAKE WORTH, Fla.—During the wonderful revival held at the Lake Worth Church of God by Brother Clyde D. Rogers, I was miraculously healed of a skin cancer that had been on my face almost 13 years. That night Brother Rogers had preached about the gentle woman who came begging a crumb from the Master's table. That sermon seemed to inspire my faith. Long had I prayed to see miracles performed, but never dreamed that a miracle would be performed on me.

After the message, Brother Rogers asked if anyone wanted prayer for his body. He formed a healing line; I stepped forward to be prayed for. I did not ask prayer especially for my face, but just for my general physical condition. When Brother Rogers anointed me, laid hands on me and prayed for me, I truly felt a touch from God. I stepped back out of the line and started praising God. I was crying, and as I wiped the tears from my eyes, I accidentally brushed over the cancer on the side of my face. When I did the cancer fell off into my handkerchief, roots and all. As soon as I realized what had happened, I pressed my handkerchief over the spot as it was bleeding. I looked up at Brother Rogers to let him know my face was bleeding. He asked me to step back in front of him; then I showed him the cancer and told him just what had happened. He told me to press my handkerchief back to the spot once more, then remove it. He then dipped his finger in the oil and anointed the spot and prayed; the blood stopped instantly.

God knew my needs and He

healed the condition that was doing the most harm to my body. He allowed the spot to bleed as a witness that the cancer did not just fall off, but came out roots and all.

I hope and pray that this testimony will inspire the faith of others, that they may receive healing for their bodies as I did. God is no respecter of persons. He will do for you what He did for me if you will only believe.

I have the cancer in alcohol for anyone that wants to see it.

—Sister Ella Deese

## Praises God for Healing Power

JESUP, Ga.—I promised God I would send in my testimony if He answered my prayers. I want to sound a note of praise for God's wonderful healing power.

A month ago my daughter underwent surgery, and remained in the hospital for 14 days. For two or three days after the operation she came very close to going into eternity. The two doctors who performed the surgery told us that they had done all they could do, but thank God for His healing power. I promised God while standing beside my daughter's bed in the hospital that if He would heal her body and bless her to remain with her husband and two children, I would testify to His great healing power.

I trust that everyone who is sick and discouraged will realize that God still heals.

—Sallie O. Lane

## Healed of Shoulder Injury

ARCADIA, Fla.—On March 4 I fell and dislocated my shoulder; I suffered untold agony for about 12 hours. They took X rays and put it back in place. I had only a little pain after that but I had no use of my arm from my elbow up. I could take the other hand and put it up, but when I turned it loose it would fall. I had been to two doc-

tors, but it was still the same.

On August 11, I was watching Brother Oral Roberts on television and when he prayed for the people in their homes, I closed my eyes and prayed with him. When he finished I opened my eyes and my arm was straight up, but I will never know when or how it went up. I know the Lord put it up, after the doctors had given up. I had always said I believed the Lord would heal it and He did. I can turn on the water faucet, turn my lights on, turn my machine wheel and do many other things that I had not been able to do for 5 months and 8 days.

God has also healed me of internal goiter, a bad heart ailment, and low blood pressure 28 years ago. He made our bodies and He can repair them if we can only believe. I enjoy telling what the Lord has done for me and I cannot praise Him enough.

I trust this testimony will be the means of helping someone else have more faith in God for their healing. I have been a member of the Church of God in Arcadia, Florida, for more than 20 years and I do love the Church of God.

—Mrs. Ada Cline

## "I Am the Lord That Healeth Thee"

DAYTON, Ohio—I want to testify in the *Evangel* as I promised the Lord I would do because He healed me. I could hardly use my arm for about 7 or 8 months. I can truthfully say that God is able to heal us if we will just have faith in Him. He said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." I have been healed many times. I can't mention them all now because of lack of space, but I want to praise and thank Him for the many times He has helped me and for saving my soul.

May God bless everyone who reads this, and help us that we may all hold fast to Christ Jesus, our Rock of salvation and the Anchor of our souls. Pray for my loved ones.

—Charles Butler

## God Heals Severe Ear Trouble

ROME, Ga.—I want to thank God for His wonderful healing power. About 7 years ago I started having trouble with my right ear. It was hurting me, and in a short time it was sore and bloody. I was trusting the Lord so I had it prayed for; it would get some better, then start hurting again. In a few months I was almost completely deaf in that

ear. I couldn't hear anything unless it was really loud. It stayed that way for about 5 years and that side of my head was numb. I would keep having it prayed for every time I had a chance and was just trusting the Lord to heal me. I don't know why I wasn't healed but I guess God had a purpose in it. It went on that way until about 2 years ago; then pains started shooting through that side of my head. The pain was so severe that I would have to holler sometimes. I never did go to a doctor but I believe I had a cancer in my ear. My head would swim so I would have to hold to something at times. It was all from the trouble in my head and ear.

A little over a year ago my ear began to run a dark, bloody discharge and it had a terrible odor. All the time it was still hurting me very badly. I would stand on the porch and watch my children off to school and wonder if I would be living when they came home. I would fast and pray and have others praying, too. Then one night a few months ago I decided to get some folks to pray with me until God gave us the victory. I called Brother Stover who was in Augusta, Georgia, at that time and asked him to pray. Brother Elgin Williams and his wife came to the house and we prayed until the victory came and praise the Lord, He healed me that night. My ear is open and I haven't had any pain since then. The Lord is so good to me; I just can't ever praise Him enough for what He has done for me. The Lord has healed in our home so many times I could write all night and then wouldn't be through. I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would write my testimony to the *Evangelist*. Pray for me that I will live where He would have me to and be a blessing to someone else.

—Mrs. G. C. Allen

### Healed of Heart Trouble

DURHAM, N.C.—I want to thank God for what He has done for me. He saved my soul, sanctified me and filled me with the sweet Holy Ghost. Praise His wonderful name. He healed me of heart trouble when I was beyond the reach of doctors.

I entered Watts Hospital on February 27 with a heart attack. I stayed 24 days and had another heart attack. After being in the hospital for 45 days, I was sent home with a serious heart condition.

I had been home 14 days when I took side pleurisy and pneumonia and had to return to the hospital. For 3 days I was on the critical list. At the end of 14 days I was

sent home with my left lung partially collapsed, unable to work.

I suffered untold agony until September 30, when Brother James Poe Jackson started a revival in the West Durham Church of God where I am a member. He prayed for me and God healed me instantly.

I went to my doctor and told him that God had healed me. He thought it was unbelievable. I told him I wanted to return to work. He sent me to get a cardiogram of my heart and X ray of my lung.

I was in the doctor's office when the report came. The report was that my chest was cleared and my heart was normal. He was amazed. He gave his consent, and I started back to work.

I give all the praise and honor to our wonderful Saviour.

—Mr. John C. Hilton  
Attested by Rev. H. L. Helms

### God Heals Growth Before Operation

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.—I suffered for five years with a kidney ailment. I was treated by my family doctor but only grew worse. In 1956, I had special X rays made which showed a growth in the tubes. I suffered much discomfort and continued to fail in health.

In April, 1957, I was very ill. I could not walk or stand alone without help. I had almost lost the use of my legs and back and had a continually high fever. I was rushed to the hospital and more X rays were made. After 10 days I was scheduled to go to the operating room. However, in the meantime my neighbor sent Brother Singo to the hospital to call on me. We had never met before. Brother Singo prayed and the Lord Jesus healed me in that same hour. The following day I was taken to surgery again and put to sleep and another examination was made. They did not find any growth for Jesus had already operated. The following day the doctor said I could go home. I asked him what about the growth that he had found in my tubes. He told me to just forget about that and so I did.

I praise the Lord that I am a well man. I give all the glory to Jesus Christ and thank God for a faithful pastor like Brother Franklin Singo.

—Keith E. Williams

Good Friday will be prayer day for the simultaneous revival which will begin Easter Sunday, running two weeks.



### PRAY FOR:

me to be healed. I have had a heart attack.  
—D. R. Smith  
Portales, New Mexico

me to be healed.  
—Mrs. Julia Shannon  
Charleston, Mississippi

my wife to be healed. She is seriously ill.  
—Rev. Russell Ford  
Somerset, Pennsylvania

me to be healed. I have a hurting in my chest.  
—Addie B. Hanna  
Lake City, South Carolina

my husband to be saved, my son to be blessed, a special request, Katherine Sanderson to be healed, and for my children.

—Mrs. A. E. Lewis  
Tarboro, North Carolina

me to be healed of diabetes, Marvin and Jonnie Collins to be saved, Joe Collins to be healed.

—Rosie Collins  
Mt. Vernon, Texas

Sister Trilby Sloan who had a very serious operation.

—Vertie Harkins  
Calhoun, Georgia

my sister who has heart trouble.  
—Willie Whitley  
Oneonta, Alabama

my son who has an ulcer; pray also for him to be saved, and for me to be healed.

—Mrs. Mark Bland  
Savannah, Georgia

my son-in-law to be saved, also for me to be healed.

—Mrs. S. C. McGlashan  
Homerville, Georgia





# testimonies

## Praises God for Church of God Teachings

MONROEVILLE, Ala.—Praise God this morning for old-time salvation. Sometimes I can feel it bubbling up in my soul. I am glad that I am saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

I am trusting God for my healing. Where are our people today that used to trust God no matter what kind of sickness they had? They would pray and call in other brothers and sisters and pray until they heard from heaven.

We are still trusting the same God we did then. Oh, praise God. I felt led to put this in the *Evangel*. I have been reading the *Evangel* for the last 15 years. I have been a Church of God member for about seven years. I want to say I certainly do like the teachings of the Church of God.

I want us Church of God people to search our lives to see if the way we are living will do to die by. I feel that He is soon coming. I want to be ready. I want to help everyone I can to get ready, so pray that God will bless everyone who reads this.

—Fannie Countryman

## Thanks God for His Goodness

LAUREL, Miss.—I wish to thank and praise the Lord for healing me recently. I want to thank my members and friends for their kindness and prayers for me during my illness. I realize every good gift comes from Him, and I want to praise Him for His goodness to me.

—W. H. Godwin, pastor

## Lady Gloriously Saved and Delivered of Cigarette Habit

HOMERVILLE, Ga.—Let me be one to stand up for Jesus. I have always known that there was a living God, but had never humbled myself under Him. I was saved when I was a child of 12. After

I went back in the worldly things. I never thought about God until trouble came on me, but God didn't help me at those times as I wanted Him to do, because I didn't live His way. He would help me, but not in my way.

Now I am 26 years old; I started smoking cigarettes at 12, and smoked until about a week ago. I got so bad that I had to smoke a cigarette every 2 minutes. I couldn't even sweep or cook unless I had a cigarette in my mouth. I got so nervous and upset that I would smoke 2 packs a day.

Brother and Sister Weaver were in a revival here not long ago and through them I was saved. I praise God all the time for His most precious kindness in taking me back. I do praise Him for taking away those nasty cigarettes. I want the people to know that if they smoke and say that they would like to quit but can't, they are so wrong, as I was before I was saved. I know the Lord took away those things; otherwise I could not have done it. I fasted and prayed for deliverance and I received it, thank God.

I could go on and on telling about the wonderful things God has done for me. I want everyone to pray with me that I will receive the Holy Ghost as I don't want anything now or ever that the devil has. Praise God. I want to live with Jesus in glory.

—Mrs. Claude F. Smith

## "I See God in His Creation"

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn.—All around me I see God in His creation. When I look at the beautiful mountains with their pine, spruce, and cedar trees in the summer and the golden, red, yellow, and orange leaves in the fall from the maple, walnut, and oak trees, I see the handiwork of God.

I am awakened by the mockingbird in the spring and see the clear, crystal water flowing southward from the mountain springs. I love the lovely blossoms of the dogwood; the air is filled with the fragrance

of the mountain laurel and rhododendron.

As I sit on the mountainside in the quietness, I like the smell of decaying leaves, pine needles, and burrs. I meditate on God and His Son and all the wonderful things they have done for me; I realize I am blessed of God.

In the midst of all of this there is a beautiful home, your home, my home, the Church of God Home for Children, a refuge for dependent children—children who have been denied what God expected them to have, a home, food, and clothing, also the love of a mother and father. Someone has failed them. What are we to do? The Home gives them the essentials of daily living, the love and understanding that they need. Most important, they receive the Bread of Life; each child is taught to live by the teachings of Jesus Christ. They are a happy group, all 275 of them. May God bless you always for your support.

Several years ago a small two-year-old, suffering from polio, came into our Home. He had had several operations on his leg and foot and has had two or three since entering the Home. Tommy will always be a cripple. I look into his eyes and say, "Tommy, I love you." His beautiful blue eyes light up, his smile broadens, his answer is always written across his face.

I see Jesus and His love, mercy, and kindness, when he looks at me.

—Mrs. Barney Smith

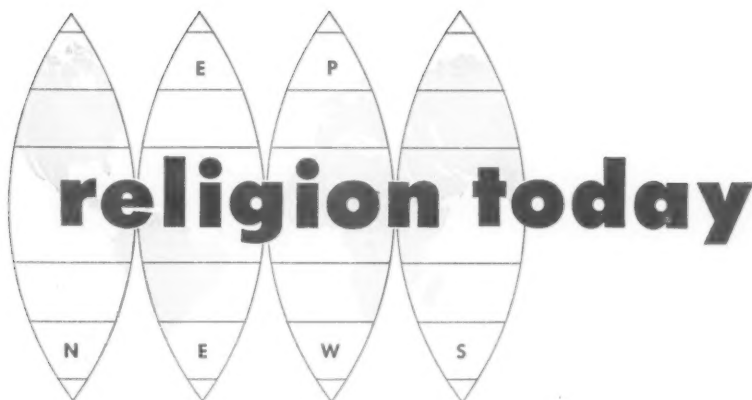
## God Answers Request

BENNETTSVILLE, S. C.—I thank the Lord for saving me from sin, for sanctifying me, for giving me the Holy Ghost and for all the many other blessings He has given me.

I promised the Lord in June if He would answer a request for me I would tell about it.

I had kept my nephew from birth and he is now twelve. His mother had been away from him since he was 2 years old. In February her husband was assigned for overseas duty. She wanted to take the child with them. I told her he had told me he wanted to stay here. She just said okay. I know the Lord answered our prayers. I love Him very much and I want to love Him much more. Pray for me that I will be all the Lord wants me to be and live closer to Him that I can be a blessing to someone, and help those who do not know the goodness of the Lord.—Inez Barrington

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God.—Daniel Webster.



### Preachers Still Have Opportunity to Save Tax Money

Churches may reduce the amount of their pastor's income tax by placing a parsonage expense allowance in the church budget if this is done before the end of 1957. Under revised income tax regulations, such action may be taken now and apply to all of 1957. After January 1, 1958, budget action must be taken in advance of the payment of salary and parsonage expenses, in order to qualify the pastor for tax reduction.

When the new income tax law was passed in 1954, it included a provision that a minister's gross taxable income does not include the rental value of the parsonage, or a rental allowance paid as part of his compensation, to the extent used to rent or provide a home. The Internal Revenue Service interpreted the law liberally in regulations issued in final form in the *Federal Register* of June 15, 1957.

Pastors with rental allowances were permitted to include the cost of fuel and utilities in the tax-exempt portion of their income. For pastors who have a free parsonage provided, the regulations added the words "including utilities" to the phrase "the rental value of a home." This placed the pastor with a parsonage on an equal footing with ministers in general work who have rental allowances.

The same provision applies in both cases: the tax exemption must be based on a specific item in the budget of the employing church or agency. If the budget item is not there, the pastor is not eligible for the tax exemption.

Meanwhile, an advisory opinion issued by the Social Security Administration in Washington threatens to restrict the benefits of retired ministers and missionaries who are provided with homes by the churches or denominations which they served. The agency held that if the rental value of a parsonage is designated as income for

social security purposes in computing base earnings for benefits, it also must be counted toward the maximum of \$1,200 a year that a retired recipient of benefits is permitted to earn while receiving such benefits.

The rental value of almost any house or apartment uses up most of the \$1,200 allowance; therefore retired clergymen who live in homes furnished by their religious groups will be severely restricted as to the amount of cash income they can have and still receive social security payments. Several members of Congress are expected to press a proposal that the \$1,200 limitation on earnings of retired persons be eliminated from the Social Security Act.

If this ceiling is retained, church representatives are expected to ask for some change in the law to remove the handicap that it places on retired clergymen.

### Episcopal Clergymen Still Prefer King James Version

On its fifth anniversary, the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is claimed by its sponsors to be firmly established as the best of all modern translations; nevertheless, the King James version still outsells the RSV by about 8 to 1. The National Council of Churches, who sponsor the Revised Standard Version, assumed that the swing to the RSV would begin with clergymen and other Bible scholars. But this assumption was jolted in a survey recently conducted by the *Living Church*, a weekly Protestant Episcopal magazine.

In the poll of more than 400 Episcopal clergymen, it was learned that 262 clergymen "always" read from the King James version at public worship, compared to only 32 who regularly use the Revised Standard Version as a pulpit Bible.

### White House Ceremony Marks Distribution of Half Billion Bibles

President Eisenhower received a Bible in a White House ceremony which marked the distribution of the first half billion volumes of Scripture by the American Bible Society. The President's Bible is a red morocco-bound volume of the King James Version weighing over nine pounds. Mr. Eisenhower thanked the Society for the gift and commended the work it has done since its formation in 1816. He remarked that this work has been particularly helpful to members of the Armed Forces and to American missionaries abroad.

Officials of the Society told the President the society has presented 40 million Testaments or Bibles to members of the American Armed Forces. He also said some 600,000 copies have been made available in Braille or other forms for the blind.

About half of the copies have been distributed abroad, they said. Although it has taken 141 years to distribute the first half billion copies, it is hoped the second half billion can be distributed in the next 25 years by increasing the present distribution rate from 15 million copies a year to 20 million.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Methodist Board of Temperance charged that the liquor industry is going to let loose this year with "the most intensive barrage of liquor advertising and propaganda in the history of Christmas." The Board said that liquor sales fell off last Christmas, and distillers are worried by the trend among business concerns to turn their annual Christmas parties into "family fun" gatherings without alcoholic drinks. One distiller has placed seven million dollars' worth of advertising in newspapers and magazines for November and December, it said. Another distiller will spend nearly five million dollars on advertising tied in with Christmas. Over \$350,000,000 worth of liquor business is at stake, and the distillers are not at all happy over the way the "Christmas for Christ" campaign has hurt their liquor sales.

ATLANTA, Georgia — Better Literature Week was observed following a proclamation by Mayor William B. Hartsfield of Atlanta. Acting at the request of the city board of aldermen, the Mayor urged the public to halt the "great traffic in low literature." He said he hoped the observance would bring about "a greater awareness by parents of what their children are reading."

*Announcing*

# Workers' Training Course

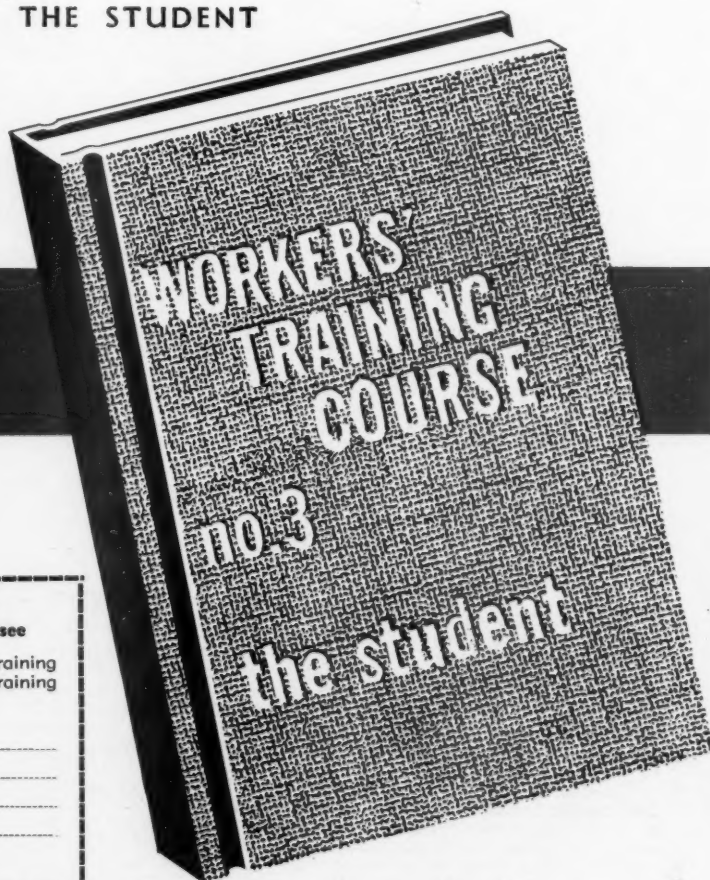
## No. 3

W. P. Stanley, author of Workers' Training Course No. 3, has prepared this text on the student in a very complete and thorough manner. Having served in many areas of church work as pastor, college instructor, state Sunday School and youth director, and editor of the Church of God Sunday School literature, he has had many opportunities to work intimately with students and to observe them and their habits in various stages of development.

Many teachers are not as successful in their Sunday School teaching efforts as they desire. While they perhaps employ proper teaching methods, no doubt many of them are lacking in a more thorough knowledge of the social, physical and spiritual development of the students to whom they teach the Word of God.

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